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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 13 December 1978

SUBJECT SED Circles Analyse Party Failure in Recent Berlin Elections

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25X1A6a

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

1. SED circles in the western sector of Berlin consider the party failure to hamper the elections and the utter lack of effective opposition to the anti-Communist parties as clear proof of their party's present inability to conduct an effective fight in the western sectors. They blame not so much their numerical weakness in the western sectors as the complete lack of organized support from the Soviet Sector and the Soviet Zone SED despite the sweeping promises made by the SED Central Secretariat and the SED Landesverband Berlin.
2. The so-called "Patenaktivs" from Soviet Sector Kreise were a complete flop, showing up only in limited numbers and rendering ineffectual support. The lack of coordination of opposition measures by the top level, particularly in the attendance of bourgeois party gatherings, is strikingly apparent. The conduct of the younger party activists was detrimental to the party, contributing to the forfeiture of the last vestiges of SED popularity, and contributing to the split between the ebullient, ill-advised younger elements and the more level-headed veterans of the class struggle. The promised large-scale commitment of the SED party school contingents, including KPD members from the western zones, was called off at the last minute after the training section of the SED Central Secretariat objected to the dangerous exposure of students in such an enterprise. The party press and election propaganda material was likewise completely inadequate.
3. Local SED organizations from city districts down advocate representations to the Landesverband and thorough investigation of organizational flaws and of the continued presence in the party of professionally valuable but politically indifferent members. Lower functionaries and conscientious members feel that screening commissions should attack the work of examining members with renewed vigor in order to make thoroughly clear to the Landesverband the deplorable organizational and personnel conditions in the western sectors. Source believes that probably nothing will come of the matter, since the Kreise headquarters of the western sectors are opposed to these measures.

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[REDACTED] Comment: The above evaluation of the party mood is generally confirmed by another well-placed and well-informed source.)

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